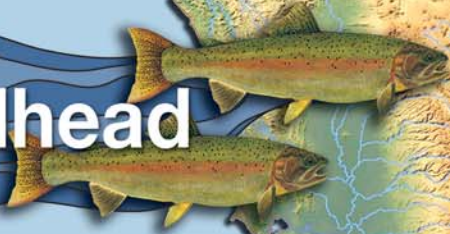


**Salmon**



**Steelhead**



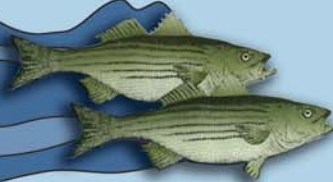
**Shad**



**Sturgeon**



**Bass**



# A Long Journey

Some fish mature and reproduce without ever leaving their native streams. Others swim downstream in the spring to mature in the ocean, then return upstream to spawn in freshwater. Fish that have adapted to traveling from freshwater to saltwater and back again are called "anadromous."

Anadromous fish evolved because the maturing fish need extremely cold sea water and the plentiful food located in the ocean to thrive, but their eggs survive best in fresh water.

Despite their adaptability, California's anadromous fish have declined in numbers. Pollution, dams, water diversion, and excess sediment adversely affect streams, and development has reduced the coastal marshes and lagoons that serve as nurseries for young fish. Today, fish hatcheries help maintain the population, but protection of our waterways and removal of barriers to migrating fish are needed to ensure the survival of these remarkable creatures.



© 2005 California State Parks